

REMARKS

The Amendments herein are in an attempt to expedite the instant prosecution and in response to the Examiner's remarks in the Second Office Action. Claims 1-5, 13, 16, and 17 have been cancelled and Claims 18 and 19 have been added. Applicant has reviewed the application and has attempted to correct both grammatical errors, and the items pointed out by the Examiner, by the amendments offered herein.

Claims 6-12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 presently remain in the application.

As indicated the specification has been amended considerably to address the Examiner's objections and remarks. Specifically, Applicant's undersigned attorney has attempted to clean up numerous typographical errors and inconsistencies throughout the application and will address the amendments in responding to the items in the instant Office Action.

In the Office Action:

In item 1, The Examiner's withdrawal of the earlier issued restriction requirement is acknowledged.

In item 2, the Examiner objected to numerous parts of the disclosure. As for the incomprehensibility of page 5, lines 9-12, Applicant's undersigned attorney agrees and has re-written those lines in newly amended paragraph [013]. This amendment to paragraph [013] is self-explanatory and merely provides missing sentence structure to what is already profusely disclosed throughout the specification. For example, the 20-35 weight percent originally presented is obviously that range of the second compatible copolymer of the claimed composition. In this regard, see page 11, paragraph [027] where the "20-35%" wt. percent of compatible block copolymer is outlined in the table.

As for the Examiner's objection to the undefined chemical abbreviations, they have been delineated in the amendments to paragraphs [018] and [035] where the A-B-A copolymer

acronyms and the meanings of EVA, EMA. and APAO are set forth. As for the erroneous recitation of “2000 degrees C”, the amendment of paragraph [029] reflects the proper temperature of 200 degrees C, as pointed out by the Examiner. The Examiner’s attention is drawn to page 9, line 22, where there is original support for the correct “200 degrees C” temperature as the standard for measuring viscosity.

In item 4, all the original Claims 1-17 have been rejected as being non-enabling under 35 USC 112 for reasons of failing to define the “molecular weight” of the subject polymers. As recommended by the Examiner, presently dependent Claim 8 and independent Claim 11 have been amended to recite “weight average molecular weight” to characterize the molecular weight of the claimed polymer species. The standard “weight average molecular weight” was set forth in the original disclosure on page 7, line 6.

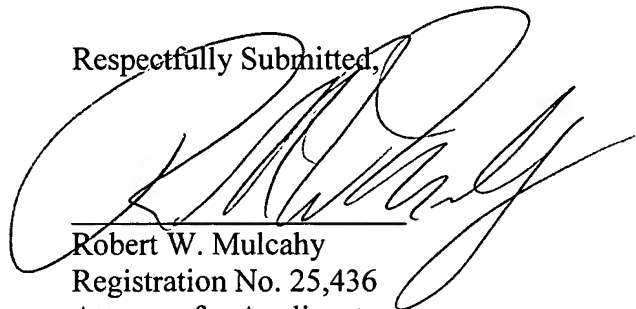
In items 6-8, original Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 13, and 14 stand rejected as being indefinite under 35 USC 112. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled and the issue of “high molecular weight” is moot. Additionally, as indicated above, Claims 8 and 11 now recite the acceptable “weight average molecular weight”. As for the Markush language, Claims 7 and 9 (the only remaining applicable claims) have been amended in strict accordance with the Examiner’s recommendation.

In item 11, original Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) and 103 as being unpatentable over the cited U.S. Patent to Simmons et al. (‘555). Claims 1-5 have been cancelled and all present remaining claims are directed to a toy article employing the instant adhesive composition comprising an A-B-A copolymer of certain characteristics and a second A-B-A copolymer in certain amounts . While Simmons et al. is directed to A-B-A (Kraton-type) adhesive compositions, the cited patent fails to appreciate the nature, amounts, and benefits of the second compatible A-B-A copolymer of the instant invention. Most importantly, the Simmons et al. disclosure does not remotely appreciate the need for dual copolymer components to address the requirements of an adhesive for styrenic toy products (see paragraphs [009] and [010] of the instant specification. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the present rejection of the instant claims over the U.S. Patent to Simmons et al.

In conclusion, Applicant submits that for the reasons given, the invention is now properly disclosed and claimed. Accordingly, Applicant through its undersigned attorney respectfully urges allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue

Applicant's undersigned attorney invites any direct telephone communication from the Examiner to expedite prosecution of the subject Application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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